

REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 13-35, 37-41, and 43-49 are pending and are now presented for examination. Claims 1, 13, 17, 18, 28, 37, 41, and 49 have been amended. Claims 12, 36, 42, and 50 have been cancelled without prejudice and without disclaimer of subject matter. No new matter has been added. Claims 1, 28, 41, 44, and 49 are independent.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Specification is objected to on the grounds that pages 18 and 19 of the Specification refer to U.S. Patent applications without noting the application number. The Specification has been amended to replace the attorney docket numbers found on pages 18, 19 and 23 with their corresponding U.S. Patent application serial numbers.

As an initial matter, Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of Claims 44-48, and the indication that Claims 11-27, 31-33, 36-39, 42 and 50 are allowable if rewritten in independent form, including the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims. As such, Applicants have amended the presently rejected independent claims in order to incorporate allowable features. Specifically, the feature of allowable Claim 12 has been incorporated into independent Claim 1, the feature of allowable Claim 36 has been incorporated into independent Claim 28, the feature of allowable Claim 42 has been incorporated into independent Claim 41, and the feature of allowable Claim 50 has been incorporated into independent Claim 49. Therefore, independent Claims 1, 28, 41 and 49 are now believed to be in condition of allowance and the withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is respectfully requested

Claims 1-10, 28-30, 34, 35, 40, 41, 43, and 49 were rejected on page 2 of the Office Action as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) by U.S. Publication No. 2004/0082356 A1 to Walton *et. al.* ("Walton"). Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are patentable over Walton.

As discussed above, independent Claims 1, 28, 41, and 49 have been amended to incorporate features of allowable Claims 12, 36, 42, and 50, respectively, and are therefore believed to be allowable. As such, amended Claims 1, 28, 41, and 49 are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 2-10, 29, 30, 34, 35, 40, and 43 are each dependent either directly or indirectly from one or another of independent Claims 1, 28, and 41 discussed above. These claims recite additional limitations which, in conformity with the features of their corresponding independent claim, are not disclosed or suggested by the art of record. The dependent claims are therefore believed patentable. However, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

For all of the above reasons, the claim objections are believed to have been overcome placing Claims 1-11, 13-35, 37-41, and 43-49 in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned to discuss any matter that would expedite allowance of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit overpayments or charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 502104.

Respectfully submitted,

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